

GAMING POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2005
GAMING POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Executive Director Eugene Balonon opened the June 23, 2005, meeting of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee (GPAC), at 10:04 a.m., and requested that a roll-call of committee members be taken.

Committee Members Wally Blem, Ileana Harris, Kermit Schalytz, Andrew Schneiderman, David Stearns, Ken James, Mark Powers, and Roxanne Rhodes, were present at the meeting.

Chairman Shelton and Commissioners Sasaki and Williams were present at the meeting but did not participate.

Staff Participating: Eugene Balonon, Executive Director, Cy Rickards, Chief Counsel, Herb Bolz, Senior Legal Counsel, and John Spittler, Deputy Director of Licensing, Gary Qualset, Deputy Director of Compliance, Cara Podesto, Manager of Licensing, Carl Olsen, Gaming Liaison, and Elidia Campos, Legal Secretary.

Chairman Shelton provided opening comments to welcome the new committee members.

1. Presentations:

a. Overview of Commission & Gaming Policy Advisory Committee.

Executive Director Balonon commented that this was the first meeting for the newly appointed members of the Advisory Committee, who were appointed by the Gambling Control Commission (Commission), as mandated under the Gambling Control Act. Executive Director Balonon provided a brief overview of provisions in the Gambling Control Act pertaining to the Advisory Committee's roles and responsibilities. Executive Director Balonon then introduced Commission staff members Sandy Standridge, Deputy Director of Support Services, Gary Qualset, Deputy Director of Compliance and Audits, John Spittler, Deputy Director of Licensing, and Cyrus Rickards, Chief Counsel, Legal Division, who each presented a brief overview of their perspective departments.

b. Bagley Keene Act.

Cyrus Rickards, Chief Counsel, presented an overview of the Bagley-Keene Act to the GPAC members, indicating that the Advisory Committee is a statutorily established state body subject to the Open Meeting Act.

Executive Director Balonon indicated that each member had been provided a copy of the Mission Statement that was adopted in 2003 by the previous committee members. Executive Director Balonon indicated that the Mission Statement would be included as an item on the agenda at the next meeting for re-adoption by the new members, or for consideration of a new or amended version.

2. Action Items:**a. Problem Gambling Regulations.**

Executive Director Balonon presented Item 2.a. to the committee for discussion on problem gambling regulations. Before Executive Director Balonon opened the floor to comments on the proposed regulations, he conveyed that although Bruce Roberts, President of California Council on Problem Gambling, was not able to attend the meeting, he called to provide comments on the regulations. According to Executive Director Balonon, Bruce Roberts recommended changes to the problem gaming regulations, and urged passage of Article 6, Section 12461 which would change the "1-800-Gambler" number to be directed to the California Council on Problem Gambling.

Committee Member Schneiderman indicated his support of the regulations as presented, but said there was room for improvement, including: a broader self-exclusion provisions that would encompass more than just one gambling establishment; improving training programs, and curriculum for staff; and giving patrons alternatives to the self-exclusion such as patron requested restrictions and/or limitations on their activities when visiting a gambling establishment.

Kermit Schayltz supported the problem gambling regulations with a few changes.

Mark Powers presented questions concerning self-exclusion, and whether the responsible gaming message was effective or not. He further indicated that he thought it would be beneficial to have research conducted to determine whether the responsible gaming message has had a desirable impact.

Roxanne Rhodes commented in supported of the regulations.

Dave Stearns commented in support of the proposed regulation indicating that a real need for this regulation exists, but he feels that it is unfortunate that government is forced to regulate problem gambling.

Ileana Harris commented in support of the proposed regulations.

Walter Blem indicated his concern that pinpointing who is addicted could be difficult.

Andrew Schneiderman provided comments regarding advertising to minors.

Executive Director Balonon asked to table the discussion on the proposed regulations until the next scheduled meeting so that Committee Member Roberts can participate in discussions concerning the regulation. Executive Director Balonon indicated that he would provide staff with the comments.

Mr. Rickards asked if anyone had thoughts about self-restriction as opposed to self-exclusion.

Committee Member Schneiderman responded by indicating that a problem gambler might consider self-restriction as opposed to the more extreme self-exclusion.

Committee Member Rhodes offered comments regarding self-exclusion, indicating that she felt self-restriction might be a reasonable alternative to self-exclusion for patrons who might not consider exclusion.

b. Scheduling Next meeting.

Executive Director Balonon tentatively scheduled the next GPAC meeting for September 22, 2005.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public during this portion of the meeting.

ADJORNMENT

Upon motion of Committee Member Schayltz to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Committee Member James and unanimously carried with Blem, Harris, Schayltz, Schneiderman, Stearns, James, Powers and Rhodes voting yes, Doyle and Roberts absent, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.